

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /163 W
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R 261746Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8759

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

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SUBJECT: MBFR: SOVIET AND BELGIAN VIEWS

REF: BRUSSELS 5384

1. SUMMARY: SOVIETS HAVE TOLD BELGIAN MBFR REP ADRIAENSSEN THAT THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MBFR AND THINK THAT "LA TIMES" ARTICLE ON NATO POSITIONS REFLECTS A POSITIVE WESTERN ATTITUDE. BELGIANS CONTINUE TO WANT ANY FIRST STAGE MBFR AGREEMENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT INDIGENOUS FORCES WILL PLAY A ROLE IN SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS. BELGIANS BELIEVE ANY FOUR MBFR PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONVENE PLENARY SESSION AND AGREE THAT AD HOC GROUP SHOULD MEET IN BRUSSELS BEFORE MEETING IN VIENNA ON OCTOBER 15. BELGIANS HAVE ALREADY RENTED OFFICE SPACE IN VIENNA. ADRIAENSSEN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WITH VAN ELSLANDE DURING SECOND WEEK IN OCTOBER AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MBFR TOUR D'HORIZON WITH STOESEL AND OTHER OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ADRIAENSSEN TOLD US ON SEPTEMBER 26 THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOBOLEV AND DCM MAKAREVITCH HAD RECENTLY AND SEPARATELY TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS MBFR. ADRIAENSSEN SAID THAT SOVIETS, WHO WERE CLEARLY SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, HAD STRESSED THAT MOSCOW STANDS READY TO DEAL SERIOUSLY WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF MBFR. SOVIET OFFICIALS TOLD ADRIAENSSEN THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN AGREED CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE IN VIENNA BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. SOVIETS ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE "LA TIMES" REPORT ON NATO MBFR THINKING AS A SIGN THAT NATO WAS TAKING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ADRIAENSSEN BELIEVES THAT THE WEST MUST NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIETS REALLY DO DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF A SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT IN VIENNA. HE RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR SHOW OF EARNEST WOULD BE OF TACTICAL VALUE AS WELL, ESPECIALLY AS A WAY OF DEMONSTRATING TO THE WORLD AND TO CSCE PARTICIPANTS IN PARTICULAR THAT, SINCE MILITARY MATTERS ARE BEING SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN VIENNA, THERE IS NO REASON TO STAND IN THE WAY OF A SWIFT CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE PHASE OF CSCE.

4. AS FOR THE OVERALL BELGIAN VIEW OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, ADRIAENSSEN SAID THAT THE ALLIES MUST CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION
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ARISING FROM A COMMON BELIEF THAT THE ONLY WESTERN MOTIVE FOR DISCUSSING MBFR IS TO HEAD OFF US CONGRESSIONAL ATTACKS ON AMERICAN TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE. ADRIAENSSEN FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE WEST MUST CONVINCE OTHERS, INCLUDING THEIR OWN PUBLICS AND THE NEUTRALS, THAT A SINCERE DESIRE FOR DETENTE IS A VERY REAL FACTOR IN ALLIED ATTITUDES TOWARD MBFR. THIS, ACCORDING TO ADRIAENSSEN, LIES BEHIND THE BELGIAN DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT A SECOND MBFR STAGE INVOLVE EUROPEAN AS WELL

AS AMERICAN AND SOVIET TROOPS. THUS, ADRIAENSSEN BELIEVES THAT ANY FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE A SPECIFIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT INDIGENOUS FORCES WILL INDEED PLAY A ROLE IN SECOND STAGE REDUCTIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE BELGIANS WOULD NOT INSIST THAT THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BE PHRASED IN TERMS OF "FOCUSING ON" INDIGENOUS FORCES.

5. ON THE SAME SUBJECT, ADRIAENSSEN WAS QUICK TO ADD THAT ANY LANGUAGE ON INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS BE WRITTEN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ALLOW MANEUVERING ROOM FOR THE WESTERN EUROPEANS TO HANDLE REDUCTIONS OF THEIR FORCES IN NATIONAL PROPORTIONS AS THEY SEE FIT. IN OTHER WORDS, THE BELGIANS DO NOT WISH TO GIVE THE EAST ANY VOICE IN DETERMINING FUTURE WESTERN EUROPEAN FORCE DEPLOYMENTS. THEREFORE, ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO REDUCTION OF GERMAN FORCES WITH RESPECT TO A SECOND MBFR STAGE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

6. ON PROCEDURES, ADRIAENSSEN SAID THE BELGIANS ARE PLEASED WITH THE LATEST US CONTRIBUTION (STATE 181536) EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT IT DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THE ROMANIANS. THE BELGIANS STILL BELIEVE THAT ANY FOUR MBFR PARTICIPANTS (EAST AND WEST COMBINED) SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO CONVENE A PLENARY SESSION. IN ADRIAENSSEN'S VIEW, THIS WOULD NOT ONLY PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF THE NATO FLANK STATES AND GIVE THEM A NEEDED SENSE OF PARTICIPATION, BUT WOULD ALSO GIVE TO THE ROMANIANS A VOICE THEY WILL NOT HAVE IF THEY MUST DEPEND SOLELY UPON THE SOVIETS AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS, WHO CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO GIVE THE MAVERICK ROMANIANS MUCH

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

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R 261746Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8760
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

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SUPPORT. IN ANY CASE, ADRIAENSSEN SAID, THE MERE CONVENING
OF A PLENARY WOULD NOT OBLIGATE ANYONE TO SPEAK AT THAT PLENARY,
AND THE FLANK PARTICIPANTS (INCLUDING ROMANIA) WOULD SOON
LEARN THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN USING THEIR PEROGATIVE
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FRIVOLOUSLY. (COMMENT: AS A FORMER AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST,
ADRIAENSSEN FEELS THAT HE KNOWS THE ROMANIANS BETTER THAN
MOST, AND HE CLEARLY WISHES TO BE AS HELPFUL TO THEM AS POSSIBLE.
END COMMENT.)

7. WITH REGARD TO THE AD HOC GROUP, ADRIAENSSEN HAS NO
OBJECTION TO A MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 8 OTHER THAN
THE FACT THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON THAT
DATE. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY THE
BRUSSELS MEETING UNTIL OCTOBER 11 OR 12, WITH PARTICIPANTS
MOVING DIRECTLY TO VIENNA THEREAFTER TO CONVENE THERE
ON OCTOBER 15. EMBOFF REITERATED STRONG US PREFERENCE
FOR OCTOBER 8 AS THE LATEST DATE ON WHICH THE AD HOC GROUP
SHOULD MEET IN VIEW OF THE WORK THAT BODY MUST ACCOMPLISH
BEFORE THE OPENING OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

8. ADRIAENSSEN WILL LEAD THE BELGIAN DELEGATION IN VIENNA
AND WILL BE SUPPORTED BY ONKELINX (BELGIAN MISSION IN GENEVA)
AND, ALTERNATELY, WILLOT OR BURNY (BELGIAN NATO DELEGATION).
ADRIAENSSEN SAID THE BELGIANS HAVE ALREADY RENTED OFFICE

SPACE IN VIENNA ON RENNWEG NEAR THE BUILDING CURRENTLY BEING
CONSIDERED FOR USE AS A COMMON NATO FACILITY. (A FLAT HAS
ALSO BEEN RENTED FOR ADRIAENSSEN'S USE.)

9. ADRIAENSSEN PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON AT THE TIME OF FOREIGN
MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE'S OCTOBER 10 MEETING WITH SECRETARY
KISSINGER. HE WILL BE ON HAND TO SUPPORT THE MINISTER BUT
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE A POLICY LEVEL TOUR D'HORIZON ON MBFR
WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL AND OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE.
ADRIAENSSEN WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TALKS OCTOBER 8 THROUGH
10. WE TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD RELAY HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON
AND PROVIDE HIM WITH A RESPONSE EARLY DURING THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 1. STRAUZ-HUPE

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